

Neil Brodie

From: Neil Brodie
Sent: May 8, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Cc: Mary Anne Aldred
Subject: RE: Morning Clippings Summary: Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Attachments: OEB Media Request -Globe and Mail- IESO Fees FINAL AND COMPLETE 04 18 2....docx

First I hear of this too.

This may be part of a series that the G&M are doing that is delving into the FHP accounting/financing structure. The G&M published an article on March 25 titled "Auditor General blasts 'bogus' hydro accounting strategies in Ontario". It didn't mention the OEB. Then the OEB rec'd a media call on April 18th from the same G&M reporter regarding the OEB's regulatory oversight of the IESO. I mentioned that call in an end of day email that day. Martine and Ted put together the response (attached) to the media call. That led to a Saturday April 21 article in the G&M titled "Bad books: How Ontario's new hydro accounting could cost taxpayers billions" which referenced individuals' roles in the FHP financing structure. That article did not mention the OEB.

I'll head down to see Pub Aff now to see what they know.

From: Rosemarie Leclair
Sent: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 9:57 AM
To: Neil Brodie <Neil.Brodie@oeb.ca>
Cc: Mary Anne Aldred <MaryAnne.Aldred@oeb.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Morning Clippings Summary: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

I note Karen ref to Globe questions on rate regulated accounting... First I hear of that.. questions to us or to ieso. As you know, this is an issue I want to stay involved with.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Evans <Karen.Evans@oeb.ca>
Date: May 8, 2018 at 9:27:02 AM EDT
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List <Clippings_Distribution_List@oeb.ca>
Subject: FW: Morning Clippings Summary: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Good Morning,

- There is widespread coverage of last night's first leaders debate. High hydro rates were mentioned but energy policy was not the focus.
- Post-debate polls suggest PC leader Doug Ford won. Full article below.
- The Hydro One merger with Avista Energy in Washington State has been approved by US federal regulators.
- Alberta Opposition leader Jason Kenney pledges his party's support for Saskatchewan's legal challenge of the federal climate plan.
- FYI- The Globe and Mail has not yet run an article this morning after receiving answers from IESO to questions about rate-regulated accounting yesterday.

[GlobalNews:](#) Doug Ford's Ontario PC Party enjoys commanding lead over NDP, Liberals: Ipsos poll

The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario is the early favourite in the Ontario provincial election which is set for June 7, according to an Ipsos poll conducted exclusively for Global News.

If the election were held tomorrow, Ontario PC Party Leader Doug Ford would receive 40 per cent of the decided popular vote, with Andrea Horwath's NDP receiving 29 per cent and Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals 26 per cent (down one point from early April), the poll found.

Much of Ford's lead is down to his popularity in the seat-rich 905 suburbs surrounding Toronto, where the PCs (44 per cent) hold a considerable lead over the NDP (29 per cent) and the Liberals (24 per cent), with three per cent backing other candidates, according to the poll of 1,197 eligible Ontario voters interviewed between May 4 and May 7.

"The things he's been talking about, particularly related to spending and taxes, and just even being able to talk to people in the 905 and his ability to connect with them is starting to come through," said Darrell Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Global Affairs.

"For some reason, neither the NDP nor the Liberal Party seems to have a similar type of connection, so [905 voters] seem to be very strongly interested in change, and the change they're looking at is Doug Ford."

The PCs also hold a solid lead over the Liberals and the NDP in southwestern and northern Ontario, while in the City of Toronto, the Tories (35 per cent) and Liberals (33 per cent) are neck and neck, with the NDP (26 per cent) not far behind.

In addition to leading in most regions, the Tories also have a solid lead in many of the key demographics — men (48 per cent to the Liberals and NDP at 25 per cent each), gen-Xers (44 per cent to the NDP's 27 per cent and Liberals' 24 per cent), boomers (44 per cent to the NDP's 28 per cent and Liberals' 25 per cent) as well as every single income group.

"It just shows you how desperately people want to get the Liberal Party out."

Among millennials, there looks to be a three-way race between the NDP (34 per cent), PCs (30 per cent) and Liberals (29 per cent).

Province-wide, the Progressive Conservatives appear to have the most committed voters, with 58 per cent of PC voters saying they're fully certain about their vote choice, compared to only 34 per cent of Liberal voters and 27 per cent of NDP voters.

Progressive voters are yet to rally behind a single alternative in Wynne or Horwath, said Bricker, something that's to Ford's advantage.

"In spite of what the premier said in the debate tonight, the public perceives [the Liberals and NDP] as pretty close. So on everything, particularly on the compassion side, support for the environment, support for multicultural populations, the progressive agenda, they seem to be pretty evenly divided on their ability to deliver it," Bricker said.

"If they're so similar on those things, then really what it comes down to is which one of the two is the best option for stopping Doug Ford."

The poll also found respondents evenly split between wanting a majority or minority government.

Among all possible minority government scenarios, the most popular was one in which the Conservatives govern in a minority government supported by the NDP, with 56 per cent of respondents supporting that option.

"It just shows you how desperately people want to get the Liberal Party out," said Bricker.

"They'd be prepared to consider that type of an option, which by the way is probably a pretty unrealistic option."

By comparison, only 34 per cent supported a Conservative minority government with support from the Liberals, and just 28 per cent would be OK with a Liberal minority government supported by the Conservatives.

Ultimately, this looks to be a "change" election, with three-quarters of Ontarians calling for change at Queen's Park — only 23 per cent of respondents said the Wynne Liberals have done a good enough job to merit re-election.

Bricker says Wynne needs to take a leaf out of her 2014 campaign book when it comes to engaging with progressive voters. "She has to find a way of consolidating people who are progressive voters in order to stop Doug Ford. She did it the last time to stop Tim Hudak, the question is whether she'll be able to work that similar magic again," he said.

As for Ford, his strong position early in the campaign means he's well-positioned to become the next premier of Ontario, as long as he takes care of two things. "One, not do anything to cause the people who are currently voting for him to reconsider their choice. Two, hope that on the other side of the agenda, the people who really want to stop him don't get consolidated behind a single party."

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 19 Results



Provincial election means energy sector uncertainty | Law Times

www.lawtimesnews.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, May 7, 2018

OEB is mentioned.

The Progressive Conservative leader has promised to "clean up the hydro mess" by firing the chief executive and the board of Hydro One, although there may be difficulties in that the province no longer has majority control of the publicly traded ...



While Ford and Wynne bicker, Horwath may just seize the day

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$17,437

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

There was a moment early in Monday evening's **Ontario** leaders' debate that you could see coming from a mile away. An exchange about where Doug Ford would find billions of dollars in savings had devolved into an increasingly hostile ...



Ford may do better without an election platform

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mohammed Adam

Ad Value: \$854

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

Several commentators have taken Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford to task - as they should - for not releasing a fully costed platform, even as what could well be a seminal provincial election gets closer and closer. Party platforms are ...



Three winners, and one loser

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$27,060

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

The first televised debate of the 2018 campaign season turned out to be an election double-header - two debates in one night. One debate aimed fire at Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford, who came under alternating attack from his two rivals ...



Party leaders face off in first provincial election debate; Ford, Wynne spar as Horwath mostly steers clear of both in chaotic contest that offers voters few new promises

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: \$14,750

Reach: 309154 **Page:** A8

Doug Ford brought his promise of lower taxes and curbing spending to the province in his first debate as the Leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives, while Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne warned his promise of cuts would hurt regular people. ...



Doug Ford targeted by Kathleen Wynne, Andrea Horwath in first major debate before election | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Neutral

Permalink

In the first televised debate before the June election, Ontario party leaders Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath aggressively targeted Doug Ford and his promises to find government efficiencies.



Ford in the line of fire in first provincial leaders debate

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$16,371

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A1

Front-runner Doug Ford endured a verbal barrage from his Liberal and NDP rivals on Monday over what government services the Progressive Conservatives would cut if they win the June 7 election. In the first leaders debate of the campaign, Ford, who ...



Yes. Its spending and debt are not sustainable

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Christine Van Geyn

Ad Value: \$13,097

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A11

The **Ontario** government is too big and shrinking it must be a priority for the next provincial government. There are many ways to measure just how mammoth the **Ontario** government has become. Whether you look at Ontario's ...



No clear winner in first face off; Fiery clashes as Ontario party leaders meet for their first televised election debate

London Free Press - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Tom Blackwell

Ad Value: \$5,210

Reach: 70995 Page: A4

At times during the **Ontario** election's first televised debate Monday, it was hard to hear what any of the leaders were saying: all three talked, or shouted, at the same time. The inaugural face-off between the Liberal, Progressive ...



Horwath talked the talk

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Tom Parkin

Ad Value: \$486

Reach: 45442 Page: A7

There's just one reason NDP leader Andrea Horwath won Monday night's City TV debate: She answered the questions people asked her. Over and over, Horwath waited for a break in the blame-throwing contest between PC leader Doug Ford and Liberal leader ...



Ontario political parties outline hydro plans

Orillia Today - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,213

Reach: 22244 Page: 1

Progressive Conservatives Leader Doug Ford has made no bones about his plans for **Hydro One**, recently vowing to fire its current CEO as well as the entire board. A tripling of **electricity rates** under ...



Ford offers complaints, but no Hydro solutions

North Bay Nugget - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$864

Reach: 11505 Page: A4

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro One** is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro One** fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday. ...



Ontario party leaders square off in first debate

THE NATIONAL - Mon May 7 2018, 9:00pm ET

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: RON CHARLES; KATHLEEN WYNNE; DOUG FORD; ANDREA HORWATH

ADRIENNE ARSENAULT (HOST): - The campaign hasn't even officially started yet, but the **Ontario** election unofficially kicked off tonight with a televised debate. We have a play-by-play for you. - Exactly one month to go until ...



Lawrence Solomon: How Doug Ford can end Ontario's suffering from expensive electricity — instantly | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

By all accounts, Doug Ford, a bruiser who polls predict will be Ontario's next

premier, lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of energy policy.



Carbon tax will cost us billions

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$1,513

Reach: 45442 Page: A8

Since the Trudeau government won't tell Canadians how much carbon pricing is costing them this year, I will. It's \$5.4 billion, only counting the four provinces - **Ontario**, Alberta, B.C. and Quebec - that already have it. The ...



UCP Leader blasts Ottawa's carbon-pricing strategy

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: BILL CURRY

Ad Value: \$14,093

Reach: 309154 Page: A3

Alberta Opposition Leader Jason Kenney took his carbon-tax concerns to **Ottawa** Monday, telling MPs his party will join Saskatchewan's legal challenge of the federal **climate plan**. The leader of the United Conservative ...



Carbon taxing politicians carry the torch of hypocrisy

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Paigemacpherson

Ad Value: \$1,263

Reach: 45442 Page: A13

As a **Canadian** visiting **Ottawa** - in a nod to our selfie-friendly Prime Minister - have you ever taken a photo on Parliament Hill at the Centennial Flame? For shame. You might have missed the opportunity. The federal government ...



Hydro One, Avista merger approved by U.S. Federal Communications Commission - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Hydro One Ltd. and Avista Corp. say the U.S. Federal Communications Commission has granted its consent to close their merger.



Quebecers' Hydro bills spike after long, cold winter | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Hydro-Québec is urging its customers to contact them if they're worried about a huge spike in their bills.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Provincial election means energy sector uncertainty | Law Times

www.lawtimesnews.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The Progressive Conservative leader has promised to "clean up the hydro mess" by firing the chief executive and the board of Hydro One, although there may be difficulties in that the province no longer has majority control of the publicly traded company.

[Back to Top](#)



While Ford and Wynne bicker, Horwath may just seize the day

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$17,437

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

There was a moment early in Monday evening's **Ontario** leaders' debate that you could see coming from a mile away.

An exchange about where Doug Ford would find billions of dollars in savings had devolved into an increasingly hostile backand-forth between the Progressive Conservative Leader and the Liberals' Kathleen Wynne - Mr. Ford defaulting to his favourite attack line about the Liberals being in cahoots with richly paid **energy** executives, Ms. Wynne firing back about Mr. Ford being cozy with developers who would pave over the Greenbelt.

Off to the side, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath could be seen laughing and shaking her head.

"While these two argue," she said when she got her opening, "our **hydro** bills are going through the roof."

Ms. Horwath's aim, in the election that officially begins on Wednesday, is to present herself as a ray of sunshine opposite two darker options. In that moment and others, she executed it well enough to suggest that - as per a pair of polls released earlier in the day showing the NDP pulling ahead of or even with the Liberals for second place behind the Tories - she may be able to turn this campaign on its head.

It wasn't just displays of fatigue with the other two's bickering - which happened several more times, to diminishing effect as her laughing and headshaking got more exaggerated - that spoke to that potential. She also appeared at various points to check off the most boxes on a list of things Ontarians might conceivably want in their next premier.

For voters whose only criterion is change - a government as different as possible in character from the current one - Mr. Ford is the obvious choice. In the debate, as since entering provincial politics earlier this year, he presented himself as someone who, through sheer force of personality, would be able to impose common-sense solutions to all the things - wasteful spending, **energy** prices, health-care waits - that madden Ontarians about their current government.

But predictably for anyone who has been watching him, he did not provide reassurance to those worried about his readiness for office. Early on, he got into trouble attempting to go near the details of governance, as Ms. Wynne served as his fact-checker.

After a while he defaulted mostly to slogans - many variations of being there for "the little guy" - that allowed him to more easily be on the attack. Again and again, he had no coherent rebuttal to accusations that his quest for savings would lead to deep cuts.

Ms. Wynne left no doubt about her competence. On virtually every subject, from

housing affordability to police conduct to **public** transit, she was ready with a calm, facts-heavy defence of her record. But when polls show roughly four-fifths of the electorate wanting change, she no doubt sounded to many like a disconnected defender of the status quo.

Ms. Horwath didn't offer as much change as Mr. Ford, and wasn't quite as good as Ms. Wynne at going into the weeds.

But on many topics - debating Ms. Wynne on where government policies fall short, citing specific investments her party would make - she was the only one who offered some change and knew what she was talking about.

There was also something she did better than either of the others. Mr. Ford was so vague, so much of the time, that for all his talk of "the little guy" it might have been hard for him to really connect with day-to-day concerns. Ms. Wynne was so committed to debating the facts that she sometimes forgot to relate them. But Ms. Horwath did empathy really well.

At one point, when they were asked about supervised drug-use sites, Mr. Ford dismissed them and Ms. Wynne recited the evidence in favour. Ms. Horwath, by contrast, started by acknowledging community concerns around the sites, then told a story about encountering a heroin user shooting up outside her office and fearing for both their safety, and only then got to taking the same side as Ms. Wynne.

None of these were moments that will or should propel her toward the Premier's Office - not in a debate focused on Toronto-area issues before the writ even begins.

But there is an obvious opening for her this campaign, between Mr. Ford and Ms. Wynne.

The version of Andrea Horwath who showed up for debates in her first two elections as leader would not have been able to take advantage. The one viewers saw on Monday night.

[Back to Top](#)

Ford may do better without an election platform

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Mohammed Adam

Ad Value: \$854

Reach: 13178 **Page:** A5

Several commentators have taken Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford to task - as they should - for not releasing a fully costed platform, even as what could well be a seminal provincial election gets closer and closer.

Party platforms are important because they define vision and direction - and give voters a road map to the future. When competing parties lay out their platforms and vision, and explain in detail what they'll do in government, they give voters a chance to analyze what's being offered, compare one **plan** against the other and make a choice.

The Liberal budget, essentially a campaign document, laid out Kathleen Wynne's program. NDP leader Andrea Horwath, who has already released her platform, officially launched her campaign earlier this week, and there's still time for the PCs to release a manifesto of some kind.

They can't escape that. But it is easy to see why they are stringing it out for as long as they can.

Ford's trump card is voters' anger and frustration with the Liberals. The political environment is such that he may not need a compelling platform to win. He doesn't have to make big splashes. He has to run a minimalist campaign, appeal to people's emotions - their hearts, not heads - and he'll do well.

That's because this may be an election about how people feel - about themselves, about the Liberal party, the government and what's going on around them. So far, they seem angry and frustrated and Ford is trying to tap into this anti-Liberal sentiment. Ford is saying that if you are angry, frustrated, dismayed with what is happening in **Ontario**, and feeling left behind, he is the solution.

It is that simple. Normally, a campaign based on "vote for me because I'm not the bad guy" won't work. Voters would want more. But in this environment, it might work. When people are angry as they seem to be in **Ontario** right now, they tend to vote their emotions - facts, figures, reason and logic be damned.

Many have said Ford is not Donald Trump. Maybe so. But his message is Trumpian. Trump did not win because he offered a compelling vision. Make America Great Again was a slogan that just hit a nerve.

Hillary Clinton's troubles and inadequacies aside, Trump won because he tapped into long-festered anger and frustrations of many Americans and they didn't care that he was crude, bombastic or offensive. Or that his numbers didn't add up. When Trump said he would build a wall and Mexico would pay for it, no one really believed it. For supporters, it was a metaphor for boldness and action they crave, and they embraced it. Trump was the outsider who understood them and spoke their language, and they voted for him.

Ford is treading a similar path in **Ontario**.

He promises to offer big tax cuts, reduce government spending, cut **hydro rates**, fire **Hydro One's** CEO and do his own version of draining the swamp with talk of a probe of **Ontario's** finances. Critics decry the lack specifics or details in his announcements, but it doesn't matter that much to supporters. He is tapping in to their anger and frustration and they feel good about it.

The question is, are there enough of them to propel him to victory? Will his message resonate, and can he overcome his own demons? The question is apt because Ford didn't ride a groundswell of populism to win the PC leadership race. He lost the popular vote to Christine Elliott but won the electoral vote, which is what really matters. And even as the polls suggest he'll prevail on June 7, they also show that many don't think he is fit for the office.

So far Ford has been wise to not engage Wynne in a battle of visions and platforms. But it is still early days. A lot can happen in a campaign.

People can change their minds.

In the end, this election may well come down to whether people vote with their heads or their hearts. Mohammed Adam is an **Ottawa** writer

[Back to Top](#)



Three winners, and one loser

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$27,060

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

The first televised debate of the 2018 campaign season turned out to be an election double-header - two debates in one night.

One debate aimed fire at Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford, who came under alternating attack from his two rivals in the CityNews television studio.

The second debate targeted Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne, who as the incumbent premier had to defend her record against withering assaults from Ford on the right and New Democratic Party Leader Andrea Horwath on her left.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a winner. Sorry to disappoint, but many voters won't like the answer - please don't shoot the messenger, or blame the

messaging:

There were three winners. And one loser.

In his first provincial contest, Ford withstood double-barrelled attacks from his two rivals without losing his cool or committing any blunders (beyond making patronizing comments about the premier's smile). He may have seemed stiff and scripted, but he held his own - which likely means holding on to a massive lead in **public** opinion polls that, if the trend continues, suggest he'll be premier in a month.

But Wynne, weighed down by the baggage of incumbency, managed the twin feats of repelling her two rivals while simultaneously counterattacking against the PC front-runner. She didn't reverse the Liberal slide in a night, but she too held her own in the TV studio.

The third winner, Horwath, benefited from the fact that the others barely bothered to attack her. That cleared a path for the NDP leader to take the offensive against her opponents, and then rise above the fray whenever the others went after each other - casting herself as a winning alternative.

The clear loser, of course, was Green party Leader Mike Schreiner, who hasn't scored an invitation to any of the televised debates even though his movement is the only other party in the province that runs candidates in every riding and qualifies for per-vote subsidies. And so there wasn't a single question about the environment during the debate, despite the major upheaval planned by the Tories to dismantle **Ontario's** fight against global warming.

If you missed the debate - and few Ontarians likely tune in to the supper-hour time slots that broadcasters allocate so parsimoniously, instead of sacrificing any prime-time programming - you'll have plenty of opportunities ahead. Monday's debate gave us a preview of what to expect over the next 30 days, from Wednesday's official kickoff to voting day on June 7.

There will be endless repeats - not just televised clips looping over and over, but the same slogans and shibboleths uttered at every stop.

"You know me, I'm for the little guy," Ford said reassuringly at every opportunity, waving off challenges about budget cuts, Greenbelt cuts, health-care cuts, or job losses while accusing Wynne of enriching Liberal cronies.

The province faces "stark choices," Wynne warned as she castigated Ford on the one hand, dismissed Horwath's "magical thinking" on the other, and tried to defend the Liberal record of the past 15 years against criticism from her rivals and the studio audience.

"You don't have to choose between bad and worse," Horwath offered helpfully every time the other two went at it, promising NDP prescriptions that sounded like panaceas for every problem, ranging from cheaper housing to cheaper **hydro rates**.

But if all three leaders took shots and then skated backwards, Horwath had the easiest time of it. Largely spared the crossfire between the two other leaders, she offered more structured critiques and folksy appeals - deftly turning Ford's anti-elitist populism against him by predicting that he would replace Liberal cronyism with Tory featherbedding.

If Ford fumbled, it was when he met Wynne's direct gaze with a gratuitous comment: "You have a nice smile on your face." To which Wynne replied, coolly, "So do you."

At another point, he boasted improbably: "Unlike both of you, I've actually helped to run a government." Considering that Wynne has run Canada's second-biggest government as premier for more than five years, and that Ford has never before been elected to an executive office, it was an odd gaffe, but not one likely to surprise his supporters.

The PCs agreed to the CityNews debate on **Toronto** issues because they see the traditionally Liberal GTA as fertile ground. With their iron grip on rural **Ontario** and much of the southwest, the Tories only need a toehold in the 416 and gains

in the 905 to win big and form the government.

As an opening act, Monday's debate has set the stage for the campaign to come: The front-runner is almost certainly still far in front, and the other two leaders are fighting it out for second place in hopes of coalescing the anti-Ford vote behind them - but run the risk of tearing each other apart and leading to an even **greater** PC victory.

If you missed the debate, it's not too late. Stay tuned, because the campaign is about to heat up.

Martin Regg Cohn is a columnist based in **Toronto** covering **Ontario** politics. Follow him on Twitter: @reggcohn

[Back to Top](#)



Party leaders face off in first provincial election debate: Ford, Wynne spar as Horwath mostly steers clear of both in chaotic contest that offers voters few new promises

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: \$14,750

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

Doug Ford brought his promise of lower taxes and curbing spending to the province in his first debate as the Leader of **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives, while Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne warned his promise of cuts would hurt regular people.

New Democrat Andrea Horwath steered clear of both and offered a future without cuts or the long-governing Liberals.

While Monday's debate was supposed to be about **Toronto** and was held beside the city's bustling Yonge-Dundas Square, the leaders of **Ontario's** three main political parties traded shots in a sometimes chaotic contest with few new promises for voters. The campaign for the June 7 election will officially start Wednesday.

Finding himself in the crosshairs of Ms. Wynne and Ms. Horwath, Mr. Ford was unapologetic about his **plan** to cut \$6-billion in spending, vowing that his move would "respect the great taxpayers of **Ontario**" and lead to no layoffs. Ms. Wynne and Ms. Horwath warned that thousands of teachers and nurses would be fired.

"There's a very stark contrast that people are going to see in this election. It's a contrast between a care **plan** and a cut **plan**," said Ms. Wynne, as she challenged the Tory Leader standing to her right. "It is not possible to cut \$6-billion out of services and not hurt people."

Ontario is in deficit, according to a budget tabled this spring by the Liberal government, which has been in **power** for nearly 15 years. The government has said it will take several years to get out of deficit. Mr. Ford has vowed to cut the deficit, but said he won't be able to return the province to balance in his first year.

"I love the nurses, I love the teachers, I'm going to support them," Mr. Ford said.

"And you're going to cut their jobs," Ms. Wynne added.

While Mr. Ford and Ms. Wynne clashed repeatedly, Ms. Horwath stood back and told the audience: "You don't have to choose between bad and worse."

When pressed on what he would cut as premier, Mr. Ford would only say that he would find "efficiencies" in government. He did say that he would get rid of the chief executive of the **electrical transmission** company **Hydro** One, which was partly privatized by Ms. Wynne's government.

When asked, Mr. Ford told the NDP Leader that he wouldn't close any hospitals. "That's not my vocabulary," he said of cuts.

"I believe in driving efficiencies ... I believe there is a better way to be delivering services, a more efficient way."

Ms. Horwath shot back: "What you call efficiencies is cuts."

In a heated exchange, Ms. Wynne asked the Tory Leader which province has the lowest per capita spending in Canada.

"Not **Ontario**," he said, moments before Ms. Wynne named the province. "You obviously don't understand numbers," he said to Ms. Wynne. When she responded that he didn't, he angrily answered: "I don't understand? No, you don't understand."

Mr. Ford, the 53-year-old former **Toronto** councillor, has been the leader of the official opposition since March, after Patrick Brown's sudden resignation.

Mr. Ford sometimes seemed to struggle to go toe to toe with the other two leaders on issues of policy, according to Henry Jacek, a political science professor at McMaster University. "He was at the biggest disadvantage because he's never been in a provincial debate before. His message wasn't very deep so he went back on some of his phrases," Prof. Jacek said.

He said Ms. Horwath stood out in the debate.

"It's a time for spring cleaning and she offered a positive message."

[Back to Top](#)



Doug Ford targeted by Kathleen Wynne, Andrea Horwath in first major debate before election | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

In the first televised debate before the June election, Ontario party leaders Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath aggressively targeted Doug Ford and his promises to find government efficiencies.

[Back to Top](#)



Ford in the line of fire in first provincial leaders debate

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$16,371

Reach: 361323 Page: A1

Front-runner Doug Ford endured a verbal barrage from his Liberal and NDP rivals on Monday over what government services the Progressive Conservatives would cut if they win the June 7 election.

In the first leaders debate of the campaign, Ford, who is ahead in every **public** opinion poll, repeatedly refused to say where he would find the 4 per cent in "efficiencies" he promised, which amounts to a reduction in spending of \$6 billion per year.

As Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath pressed the Tory chief for specifics, he fired back.

"All three of us come from two different schools of economics. You two come from tax-tax-tax-spend-spend-spend 'government is the most efficient in the world,' " Ford said at the televised CityNews debate on **Toronto** issues.

"When I tell people, 'My friends, we will find four cents on every dollar of efficiencies,' they break out laughing. 'That's all you can find is four cents in efficiencies?'" he said, suggesting Ontarians want more than that.

Wynne warned Ford's proposed cuts would cost tens of thousands of jobs because 85 per cent of provincial program spending is on salaries.

"Doug, I think that the threat that you pose in terms of cuts to the province, it's really significant. How can you justify cutting thousands of jobs?" she asked him, noting Ford would have to cut 7,000 teachers to save \$1 billion.

"Kathleen, it's very simple. You have the most indebted subnational jurisdiction in the world," he responded, referring to the province's debt that has ballooned under the Liberals.

But Ford did not appear to be aware that **Ontario** already has the lowest per capita government spending of any province in Canada.

Horwath said that's part of the problem, arguing Ontarians need more money spent on health care and other necessities, not less.

"We don't have to choose between bad and worse. We can actually choose change for the better," she said, noting her party would buy back the majority share of **Hydro** One that Wynne sold off to fund transit.

The NDP leader noted that former Tory premier Mike Harris and past PC leader Tim Hudak "were very upfront about what their cuts were going to look like."

"They were honest about it. And I want to know, why don't you have the guts to tell people what your cuts are going to look like? What is in store?" she said.

Ford's reply was directed at both women and oddly suggested the premier, in office since 2013, has no experience in government.

"Unlike both of you, I've actually helped to run a government," Ford said, referring to his term on **Toronto** city council when his controversial late brother Rob Ford was mayor, from 2010 to 2014.

Horwath interjected, demanding details on his plans.

"People should know in advance - the price that people will have to pay, and the cuts you are going to have to make, in order for you to achieve what you say you're going to achieve."

Ford at times seemed to relish tackling the tag-team of Wynne and Horwath.

"One at a time - I'll take one at a time," he said.

But his reference to Wynne having "a nice smile" led to cringes in the studio and had the premier shrugging off the comment afterwards.

Ford also suggested he would govern **Ontario** the way he had helped his late brother run **Toronto**.

"The city was thriving, we had a surplus, no one lost their jobs. Not one single person is getting laid off in our administration," he said, boasting of an era best known for Rob Ford's struggles with crack cocaine and alcohol that made international headlines.

Echoing his brother's mantra, Ford pledged to "respect the taxpayer" and promised \$5 billion in new transit investment "over and above" the more than \$30 billion Wynne has already begun funding.

But as Ford railed against Liberal "backroom deals," the premier reminded him that he had been exposed last week for promising to open up to development huge swaths of land in the Greenbelt surrounding the **Greater Toronto** and Hamilton Area.

"I'm not going to touch the Greenbelt," insisted Ford, who flip-flopped on the issue last Tuesday.

"Because you got caught," Wynne shot back, referring to a February video made **public** last Monday.

Questioned about the practice of police street checks, all three leaders said they opposed "carding," with the premier admitting a new law put in place by her government has not fully ended that practice.

Outside the Dundas Square studio, activists from all parties clogged the streets and police kept careful watch as traffic squeezed through northbound on Victoria St.

Protesters from the Green party sat en masse along the road with tape over their mouths, symbolizing Leader Mike Schreiner's exclusion from the debate.

Schreiner said it's only **fair** to have "Mike at the mic" because the Greens are running candidates in every riding and receive per-vote **public** subsidies like the Liberals, Tories and New Democrats.

[Back to Top](#)



Yes. Its spending and debt are not sustainable

Toronto Star - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline:Christine Van Geyn

Ad Value:\$13,097

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A11

The **Ontario** government is too big and shrinking it must be a priority for the next provincial government.

There are many ways to measure just how mammoth the **Ontario** government has become. Whether you look at **Ontario**'s deficits, debt, number of employees or the way it spends taxpayer money, it all points to the same conclusion that the government is too large.

In the last 10 years, **Ontario** has more than doubled the province's debt, which is the largest subnational debt in the world, and the government continues to spend more than it collects, to the tune of \$12 billion this year.

Between 2003 and 2017, the government increased program spending at an average annual **rate** of 4.9 per cent, and in the last two years this pace increased to 12.2 per cent. This is faster than economic growth, inflation and population growth.

As spending has increased, so too has this bloated government's wasteful spending.

Last week, the Financial Accountability Officer released a report that found the government spends \$1 billion a year on corporate welfare without even trying to find out if the money achieves anything. Four days later, Premier Wynne announced she was handing \$110 million to Toyota, a company that made a global profit of \$22 billion last year.

Increased government spending isn't just used on corporate welfare, it's also used to do literally nothing. For example, consider the \$70 billion **Ontario** spent on a provincial pension **plan** that never happened, or the infamous \$1.1 billion **gas** plants that were never built.

There are also the programs funded by the \$2 billion **cap-and-trade** tax. For example, last year taxpayers paid \$47 million to subsidize **electric** vehicles, which until recently included cars like the \$150,000 Tesla, and the \$1.1 million Porsche 918 Spyder. The government even spent \$1 million on a shiny "**Electric** Vehicle Discovery **Centre**" - a storefront in **North** York, where people can test drive an **electric** BMW, grab a free coffee, and learn about taxpayer subsidies. But don't try to buy a car - they don't sell them there.

This is the tip of the iceberg though, because it's really the complex government programs that cost us the most; \$8 billion on eHealth, \$37 billion on above market **rates** for renewable **power**, or the \$93 billionFair **Hydro Plan** designed to fix the high **hydro rates** caused by the **Green Energy Act**.

Since 1997, the number of government employees has grown by 403,100, or 43.1 per cent. And while the government recently bragged of 10,600 jobs being added to the economy in March, the largest gains were by hiring government staff.

The cost of these government employees is significant.

On average, government employees in **Ontario** earn 13.4 per cent more than non-government workers. And government staff in Canada have seen an average of more than 26 per cent wage growth since 1997, making it the second fastest wage growth in Canada, second only to those in the mining and oil and **gas** sectors.

The province's Sunshine List of government employees earning more than \$100,000, now has 131,741 people on it, a nearly 7-per-cent increase from last year. The list includes 518 TTC vehicle operators, 25 summer school teachers, two janitors, 14 **Toronto** parking enforcement officers, and 7,878 staff at **Ontario Power Generation**.

Some may argue that the province's per capita program spending is lower than other provinces. This is true, but it is not the result of restraint on the part of government. Rather, **Ontario** is the most populous province in Canada, and benefits from economies of scale, a point acknowledged by the province's Financial Accountability Officer.

By way of example, a town could hire one bus driver to drive the town's half-empty bus. If the town grows larger and the bus fills up, cost of the driver's salary per rider goes down.

With bigger bureaucracies come bigger government plans, which means more government waste, paid for with higher taxes on the population. The first step in tackling waste and mismanagement is shrinking the size of government, and this must be a priority for the next premier.

Christine Van Geyn is the **Ontario** director of the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation.

[Back to Top](#)



No clear winner in first face off: Fiery clashes as Ontario party leaders meet for their first televised election debate

London Free Press - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Tom Blackwell

Ad Value: \$5,210

Reach: 70995 **Page:** A4

At times during the **Ontario** election's first televised debate Monday, it was hard to hear what any of the leaders were saying: all three talked, or shouted, at the same time.

The inaugural face-off between the Liberal, Progressive Conservative and NDP chiefs started haltingly, but quickly escalated into a full-throated donnybrook among the contenders to be the province's next premier.

Conservative leader Doug Ford repeatedly tried to steer the conversation into an indictment of Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne's stewardship of government finances and **Ontario's electrical** system.

Wynne and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath sought to depict Ford as a slash-and-burn Tory.

But if blows were landed in the debate on **Toronto's** City News station, no one emerged a clear winner.

Some of the most fiery clashes came as Ford was asked how he could possibly fulfil his promise of curbing government spending by four per cent - about \$6 billion - without laying off any **public** servants.

"The threat that you pose to the province in terms of cuts is really significant," Wynne said. "Why would you put all those jobs at risk ... and do it in order to give the richest people in the province a tax cut?" Ford said his time as a **Toronto** city councillor showed he could accomplish the feat, then blasted the premier on her own record.

"You put this province in debt, the largest sub-national debt in the entire world," he said. "You have the highest **gas** tax, you have the highest **hydro rates** ... You could take the first five pages out of the Guinness book of records, you set all the records." Sometimes, the back and forth was less substantial.

"You got your hands caught in the cookie jar," Ford said of revelations around the CEO of the partly privatized **Hydro One** **utility**.

"No, that's you," fired back Wynne about the Tory promising to allow development on the protected Greenbelt around **Toronto**, an idea he quickly retracted.

With Horwath hoping to bring the NDP up the middle between two leaders who have different image problems, she reminded voters they do have an alternative.

"While Mr. Ford and Ms. Wynne fought about who is going to make the worst premier of **Ontario**, I think this election is an opportunity to do something completely different," she said in her wrap-up. "We don't have to choose between bad and worse." The election campaign officially begins just after midnight Tuesday, but the phoney war has been humming for weeks, with the three leaders making promises and launching attacks on each other from afar.

The election is in many ways a referendum on 15 years of Liberal rule, one marked by controversy and scandal, including rising **electricity rates**, a ballooning debt and politically motivated spending boondoggles.

But Ford, the brother of late **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford, is also under scrutiny, having developed a reputation in the past for being hot-headed and light on policy know-how.

A Macleans-Pollara poll released on the morning of the debate put Ford's Conservatives in the lead, at 40 per cent support, but showed the NDP surging into second, with 30-per-cent backing, and the Liberals trailing at 23 per cent.

Based on the respondents' second choice, the online survey of more than 1,000 eligible voters suggests the NDP could grow further, and the Liberals fall deeper in the coming weeks.

[Back to Top](#)



Horwath talked the talk

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Tom Parkin

Ad Value: \$486

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A7

There's just one reason NDP leader Andrea Horwath won Monday night's City TV debate: She answered the questions people asked her.

Over and over, Horwath waited for a break in the blame-throwing contest between PC leader Doug Ford and Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne. And then, after smiling through their ruckus, Horwath brought the discussion back to the question actually asked - and answered it. OMG. What a political revolution.

Though Wynne repeatedly tried block the camera's view of Horwath, the NDP leader stepped into the frame and gave quick jabs that cut through the Ford-Wynne noise-fest.

"This is the problem with **Ontario** right now, folks," said Horwath. "While these two argue, our **hydro** bills are going through the roof.

"It's bad and worse." Horwath told people what she'd do: On carding- shouldn't exist. On TTC funding-restore 50% operational support, get more buses rolling. On parents with autistic children - need more community and school support. Horwath spoke directly to people's frustrations.

Plus, Horwath asked Ford the big question: Why, unlike previous PC leaders, he "doesn't have the guts" to spell out who would be hit by his cuts.

Horwath did well. A CITY-TV survey right after the debate showed 43% thought Horwath won compared to 39% who said it was Doug Ford. Just 14% said Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne.

Coming on top of today's poll showing Horwath's NDP in firm second and rising, the debate launches what will be an interesting change election.

Parkin is a former NDP staffer and social democrat media commentator
@Tom_Parkin_

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario political parties outline hydro plans

Orillia Today - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,213

Reach: 22244 Page: 1

Progressive Conservatives

Leader Doug Ford has made no bones about his plans for **Hydro One**, recently vowing to fire its current CEO as well as the entire board.

A tripling of **electricity rates** under the Liberals have cost the average **Ontario** family more than \$1,000 a year and driven jobs from the province, the Tories said in a statement provided to [Simcoe.com](#).

Hydro rates will continue to skyrocket if the Liberals are re-elected, the party said, adding that Ontarians' bills had tripled since 2003, boosting the average family's annual costs by as much as \$1,000 or more.

In addition to canning **Hydro One's** CEO - who was paid a reported \$6.2 million in 2017, including a \$1.7-million performance raise - the PCs would lower **hydro rates** by "reining in executive compensation, scrapping the **Green Energy Act** and putting a moratorium on future **energy** contracts," spokesperson Simon Jefferies said.

In a statement, Ford's campaign pointed to a release from the Fraser Institute focusing on **hydro rates** and the impact on families and jobs.

Specifically, it said residential costs had increased 71 per cent between 2008 and 2016 - more than double the national average increase of 34 per cent.

The report also claimed **Ontario's electricity rates** had reduced manufacturing employment by 75,000 jobs between 2008 and 2015.

The Liberals

Families and businesses have voiced concern over the **rate** at which the cost of **electricity** was rising, the Liberals acknowledged in a statement to [Simcoe.com](#).

"So last year we took action to reduce bills by 25 per cent on average and up to 50 per cent on average for rural residents and businesses. Further support is also available for low-income residents and **rates** will be kept to inflation for four years."

It added that, for decades, governments of all parties failed to invest in **Ontario's electricity** system.

The Liberals "inherited a dirty, unreliable system that needed billions of dollars in upgrades.

"We made those needed investments and ensured a greener, more sustainable system, including by eliminating coal - the largest reduction in greenhouse -**gas** emissions in **North** America. Today, **Ontario**'s grid is 95 per cent emissions-free and we have zero smog days."

The Liberals say their long-term **energy plan** focuses on greener **energy** while setting out a comprehensive strategy for **fair**, predictable pricing.

Under previous Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown, the Tories "largely echoed our **plan**," the Liberals added.

"Under their new leader, Doug Ford, all they're offering on this complex file are slogans and sound bites that will do nothing to reduce **electricity rates** and will take us down the same chaotic path we've seen south of the border - governing by firing people."

Green Party

Characterizing nuclear **power** as outdated technology, and **Ontario**'s current **electricity** system as unsustainable, the Green Party says it would position the province as a leader in the clean **energy** economy.

Priorities include an **independent review** of costs, benefits and alternatives of all forms of generation, with all results made **public**.

The party would place a moratorium on rebuilding any nuclear plant pending a **review** of costs and alternatives, while shutting down the Pickering Nuclear **Power** Station when its operating licence expires this August.

Looking to the long term, the Greens would set a target and develop a **plan** for **Ontario** to be powered with 100 per cent **renewable energy**.

Working with local communities, the party would provide incentives for small, **renewable energy** projects such as **wind** and **solar**, to reduce demand.

In a similar vein, **renewable energy** projects initiated by non-profit groups and co-operatives would be provided with expertise and zero-interest loans.

The party plans to import 'green' **hydro** from neighbouring provinces, noting **Hydro** Quebec has offered to sell **power** to **Ontario** at less than a third of the price that **Ontario Power Generation** would charge for nuclear **power**.

Homeowners, renters and businesses would receive incentives to convert **natural gas**, **electric**, oil, and propane heating systems to more efficient, affordable and low-carbon sources such as geothermal and heat pumps.

NDP

The NDP promises to cut **hydro** bills by about 30 per cent with a **plan** that includes reversing the sell-off of **Hydro** One and making permanent changes to the system for a long-term fix.

No **rate** increase would be required to finance the return of **Hydro** One to **public** ownership, according to the party.

The NDP says its **plan** pays off the return of **Hydro** One quickly and that, within a decade, the province would have \$1.6 billion more from dividends and payments to invest in hospitals, schools and Ontarians.

Priorities include re-establishing **independent** and **public** oversight of **Hydro** One, and creating an expert advisory panel to provide the most responsible path toward **public** ownership of **power** and **power** generation.

Rural and urban Ontarians would pay the same delivery costs under the **plan**, while mandatory **time-of-use** pricing would be ended.

Other measures include negotiating with **Ottawa** to remove the federal

government's five per cent portion from **hydro** bills.

The NDP would also address what it says is the oversupply of **electricity**, in which Ontarians pay for additional, and unnecessary **power**.

Affordable, renewable **electricity** would be imported as needed, while 'bad' contracts signed by previous governments would be cancelled, renegotiated or not renewed.

Any move to sell **Hydro** One in future would require permission of the **public** through a referendum.

[Back to Top](#)

NORTH BAY
NUGGET

Ford offers complaints, but no **Hydro** solutions

North Bay Nugget - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$864

Reach: 11505 **Page:** A4

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro** One is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro** One fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday.

Rage at the provincial **electricity transmission** company is Ford's No. 1 election issue, repeated so often that it's now performed in a sort of code.

"The \$6-million man and his cronies signed off on massive payouts for U.S. executives," Ford said. "Kathleen Wynne's politically corrupt **hydro** executives gave out more than \$50 million in payouts in golden parachutes to U.S. **hydro** executives, with your hard-earned money, going straight into the pockets of American **hydro** executives."

The "\$6-million man" is Mayo Schmidt, the chief executive of **Hydro** One. The Liberals under Wynne hired him in 2015 to run the place as they sold a majority stake in the company to private investors. Ford objects to Schmidt's pay package and promises to fire him and the board of directors if Ford wins the impending election. Stories with villains are way more exciting than real life as a grown-up.

The U.S. **hydro** executives come in because **Hydro** One is buying Avista Corp., an **electricity** and **natural-gas** company in Washington, with operations in neighbouring states. It's a \$4.4-billion deal. Avista turns an annual profit of around \$100 million as it is and **Hydro** One believes the two can save money by sharing backoffice expenses.

Part of the agreement, approved by shareholders last fall and contained in standard U.S. securities filings, is that if **Hydro** One gets rid of Avista's top 13 people within three years of the merger, they'll be entitled to a collective \$50 million in payouts. It's a combination of severances, cashing in stock options and health insurance. The payout applies if they're turfed because of the merger, demoted or made so miserable they quit.

The biggest hypothetical payout, nearly \$19 million, would go to Avista chief executive Scott Morris. But in announcing the merger last year, **Hydro** One said Morris will stay on. The next biggest package, \$6.6 million, could go to chief financial officer Mark Thies.

The five top people at Avista, accounting for \$36 million of the \$50 million, had these "change in control" clauses in their contracts long before **Hydro** One showed up. They're in Avista filings going back at least a decade. These common clauses are to keep senior employees from sabotaging deals that are expected to be good for shareholders because they might be bad for the people in the corner offices.

The deal also includes \$3.2 million in retention bonuses meant to get the same people to stay. The idea is that Avista will mostly carry on as it has, just as a subsidiary.

"Hydro One and Avista will maintain existing brands, headquarters and employee bases," Hydro One's presentation to its investors said when it announced the deal. "Hydro One will benefit from the team assembled by Scott of wellrespected industry leaders who have delivered consistent shareholder value."

"Folks, this makes my blood boil when I hear stories like this," Ford said. "This is a symbol of everything that is wrong in Kathleen Wynne's Ontario ... To Kathleen Wynne, I say this: your days as premier are numbered. We're going to take back our province and we're going to clean up this mess you have created."

He didn't say how. He proposed no reforms or solutions he might apply if he becomes premier other than repeating his promise to fire the Hydro One board. He demonstrated his anger and then walked away.

If all this is gross, it's because corporate capitalism is gross, which is a really weird position for a conservative to take. Especially a wealthy business owner like Ford. It comes with implications.

First, Hydro One shouldn't be private and engaged in the corporate world this way. Electricity is a public good, not transmitted or delivered in a competitive market, and it belongs under public control. The Liberals should never have sold a majority share of Hydro One. It was a bad decision and created a company that doesn't know how to be.

If the Tories proposed buying Hydro One back and reorganizing it as a government agency, that would make sense. They aren't proposing that. (The New Democrats are.)

Second, maybe Hydro One shouldn't be in the acquisitions business. If the Ontario government wouldn't buy a foreign company, maybe a corporation that exists to fulfil a government function shouldn't either.

Ford's also not proposing to limit Hydro One's ambitions.

Third, maybe it's wrong for people to be paid millions of dollars to run corporations, even profitable ones. Ford could demand controls on senior executives' pay. There are things Ford could do. They'd be hard.

Complaining about things you don't like is so, so much easier.
dreevely@postmedia.com

[Back to Top](#)



Lawrence Solomon: How Doug Ford can end Ontario's suffering from expensive electricity — instantly | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

By all accounts, Doug Ford, a bruiser who polls predict will be Ontario's next premier, lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of energy policy.

[Back to Top](#)



Carbon tax will cost us billions

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$1,513

Reach: 45442 Page: A8

Since the Trudeau government won't tell Canadians how much carbon pricing is costing them this year, I will.

It's \$5.4 billion, only counting the four provinces - Ontario, Alberta, B.C. and

Quebec - that already have it.

The **Ontario** government predicts it will raise \$1.98 billion this year from carbon pricing; Alberta \$1.4 billion; B.C. \$1.2 billion; Quebec \$545 million.

The Trudeau government will get at least \$265 million through the federal Goods and Services Tax because of carbon pricing, meaning it's already not revenue neutral for the feds, despite their claims.

The total cost comes to \$5.4 billion in 2018.

That's before Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's minimum national carbon price of \$10 per tonne of industrial greenhouse **gas** emissions kicks in this year for the six provinces and three territories that don't yet have one.

That minimum price will rise by \$10 annually to \$50 in 2022, after which it will be reviewed and, probably, raised again.

The cost to Canadians will also increase annually as the four provinces that already have carbon pricing raise it above Trudeau's minimum price in coming years.

Alberta's carbon tax this year, for example, is \$30 per tonne, rising to \$40 in 2021, \$50 in 2022.

B.C.'s carbon tax is \$35 per tonne this year, rising by \$5 annually to \$50 per tonne in 2021.

Ontario and Quebec are getting a carbon price of \$18-\$19 per tonne through **cap and trade** this year. They will have to raise it in 2020 to meet Trudeau's minimum price of \$30 per tonne at that time.

The reason the Trudeau government doesn't want to talk about costs is that polls suggest the more people understand the specific costs of carbon pricing to them, the less they support it.

Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, which says it wants to help inform Canadians about issues like carbon pricing, instead disgracefully attacked my Postmedia colleague Anthony Furey in Maclean's for having the audacity to report what it told him.

Meanwhile, provincial governments like Premier Kathleen Wynne's in **Ontario** obfuscate the costs of carbon pricing.

It originally said it would cost the average **Ontario** household \$156 more annually in 2017 for **gasoline** and home heating fuel, rising to \$285 in 2019, when adding in all direct and indirect costs.

But when you divide the revenue from carbon pricing **Ontario** expects to make this year, \$1.98 billion, by the 5,169,175 provincial households, according to the latest census, the average cost per household is \$383 in 2018, not \$285 in 2019.

Defenders of carbon pricing argue much of the money will be returned to Canadians in rebates and subsidies.

That's more obfuscation. No government in Canada is operating a truly revenue neutral carbon pricing system, where every dollar raised is returned to the **public** in broad-based personal and business income tax cuts.

That's the most effective method of carbon pricing because its only purpose is to reduce emissions, not increase revenues, which is what our governments are doing.

The lack of information from the Trudeau government - it now claims it will have some numbers in September - is disgraceful.

A recent Abacus Data poll showed most people surveyed in **Ontario**, B.C. and Quebec don't even know their own provinces already have carbon pricing.

Just the way Trudeau and Co. like it. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

[Back to Top](#)



UCP Leader blasts Ottawa's carbon-pricing strategy

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: BILL CURRY

Ad Value: \$14,093

Reach: 309154 Page: A3

Alberta Opposition Leader Jason Kenney took his carbon-tax concerns to **Ottawa** Monday, telling MPs his party will join Saskatchewan's legal challenge of the federal **climate plan**.

The leader of the United Conservative Party of Alberta told the House of Commons finance committee that **Ottawa's climate plan** represents an unconstitutional intrusion into provincial matters.

He also argued that the federal **plan** won't work.

"Punishing people for simply living normal lives, driving to work, filling up their **gas** tank and heating their homes, running their small businesses and nonprofits is not justifiable. It is not an effective environmental strategy," he said.

Mr. Kenney said Canadians do not support carbon pricing and he intends to make it an issue in the next election in Alberta, where his party is leading in the polls.

The finance committee is studying the Liberal government's latest budget legislation, Bill C-74, which includes a section that outlines a new national regime for pricing carbon emissions.

The omnibus budget bill has 556 numbered pages, of which 215 are devoted to the enactment of a new Greenhouse **Gas** Pollution Pricing Act.

The bill would set a national carbon price of \$20 a tonne as of Jan. 1, 2019, and the price would climb to \$50 in 2022. This price would only apply in provinces that refuse to adopt their own carbon-pricing **plan** - such as a carbon tax or a **cap-and-trade** regime - that meets an equivalent federal standard.

Mr. Kenney appeared alongside several economists and environmentalists who all supported the federal government's **plan** to set a national price on carbon emissions. Those witnesses included Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, **Climate** Action Network Canada, Equiterre and Nature Canada.

University of Alberta associate professor Andrew Leach, an environmental economics expert who has advised the federal and Alberta governments on **climate** policy matters, also told MPs that the evidence shows carbon pricing is effective.

"Do carbon prices work? That's probably a question you're hearing a lot on this committee. And the answer is simply yes," he said.

"We have plenty of evidence from B.C.'s carbon tax - which has been in place since 2008 - that carbon prices do reduce emissions below where they would otherwise be."

So far, Saskatchewan is the most stringently opposed province to the federal **plan** and has asked the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to rule on its constitutionality. Changes in government in Alberta and **Ontario** could add to the federal Liberal government's challenge of moving ahead with a national carbon **plan**.

In **Ontario**, which has adopted a **cap-and-trade** program, the Liberal government is trailing in the polls as it heads into a June election. The **Ontario** Progressive Conservative Party is the current front-runner and leader Doug Ford is highly critical of carbonpricing plans.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna spoke with reporters Monday and praised Alberta Premier Rachel Notley's NDP government for enacting a price on carbon emissions.

"I'm very proud of the actions of the Notley government," she said. "They understand that **climate** change is real and that we need to come together, that Canadians expect us to take action on **climate** change, and that's exactly what they've done."

Political debate on the budget bill has largely focused to date on how much the federal carbon **plan** would cost consumers. Conservative finance critic Pierre Poilievre has asked the federal Information Commissioner to investigate the fact that such estimates appear to exist in Finance Department briefing notes, but were blacked out in response to an Access to Information Request.

During a committee appearance last week, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said a clear answer on costs will have to wait until the fall when all provinces have said how they will respond to the federal legislation.

[Back to Top](#)



Carbon taxing politicians carry the torch of hypocrisy

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Paigemacpherson

Ad Value: \$1,263

Reach: 45442 Page: A13

As a **Canadian** visiting **Ottawa** - in a nod to our selfie-friendly Prime Minister - have you ever taken a photo on Parliament Hill at the Centennial Flame? For shame. You might have missed the opportunity. The federal government has now taken its fine-toothed **climate** comb to that Centennial Flame by studying options to cut the **natural gas** and extinguish the flame to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In the meantime, **Ottawa** is spending \$20,000 tax dollars every year to purchase carbon offsets for it.

It's a bit silly. As the developing world is dramatically ramping up its demand for fossil **fuels** thanks to undeniably positive progress, Canada is looking at ways to turn a small flame into a LED light bulb.

It's the latest move in the federal government's fourpronged **climate plan**: first, collect and spend more money; second, make life less enjoyable for Canadians; third, ensure politicians like Justin Trudeau and activists like David Suzuki carry on their carbon-intensive lifestyles; and fourth, look mildly ridiculous.

If our politicians want to give the illusion that they're saving the planet with symbolic gestures, how about starting with themselves? Stop taking international flights to meetings discussing why people should take fewer international flights. Perhaps Face-Time the Aga Khan instead of flying all the way to his private island. Live a little less high on the hog. But their hypocrisy knows no bounds.

At present, Prime Minister Trudeau is still flying all over the world for luxury vacations. Minister of Environment and **Climate** Change Catherine McKenna tweets often about jetting off to **climate** meetings with groups of people who have evidently never heard of Skype. Carbon taxing premiers and provincial ministers are no better. And how many homes does Suzuki own? Politicians and bureaucrats are shuttled around using a lot of **energy**. Those trips are taxpayer-funded, so regular Canadians foot the bill twice - once on their own travel costs and again for the increased travel costs of the government class.

To what end? Those who supported Justin Trudeau's carbon tax schemes, hoping for tangible returns - via the intangible so-called social license - must surely be frustrated with the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. The project got a technical go-ahead from the federal government a year and a half ago, yet is at a total stand-still. It failed to win social license with British Columbia gatekeepers, despite Albertans swallowing the carbon tax for nearly

18 months and the Trudeau government promising to punish all Canadians with the same tax grab.

Social license has always been a false bill of goods, but it convinced some in the oil and **gas** industry that they first must be punished to achieve progress. (How's that working out?) Thankfully, fewer Canadians will be forced to stomach this political hypocrisy as the provincial defense against Trudeau's \$35-billion annual carbon tax is mounting. Saskatchewan is taking the federal government to court and Manitoba's premier says he'll do the same, Atlantic provinces are not moving closer to carbon taxes, and polls show anti-carbon tax political leaders are likely to win the next elections in **Ontario** and Alberta.

Foreign demand for fossil **fuels** makes carbon dioxide taxes here essentially pointless - unless you agree shipping jobs to China is a good way to lower Canada's CO2 emissions. But if our politicians are so convinced that changing **Canadian** behaviour is the key to saving the world, the least they could do is lead by example. Until they do, their scolding will be hypocritical and their gestures will be silly at best.

If the day comes when the carbon tax is imposed on all Canadians by a heavyhanded federal government, take heart: together, we can gather 'round the Centennial LED, partaking collectively in one very long eye roll - or to ensure we keep warm, perhaps a louder political protest.

MacPherson is a contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable **Energy** and works for a **Canadian** taxpayer research and advocacy group

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro One, Avista merger approved by U.S. Federal Communications Commission - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One Ltd. and Avista Corp. say the U.S. Federal Communications Commission has granted its consent to close their merger.

[Back to Top](#)



Quebecers' Hydro bills spike after long, cold winter | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro-Québec is urging its customers to contact them if they're worried about a huge spike in their bills.

[Back to Top](#)

Mary Ellen Beninger
Media Relations Specialist
Consumer and Corporate Affairs

MaryEllen.Beninger@oeb.ca
416.440.7741 (O)

416.230.5939 (C)
1.877.632.2727